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(54) Title: AUTOMATIC FIBER PROCESSING SYSTEM INCLUDING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING END-ALIGNED FIBER SAMPLES

(57) Abstract: The apparatus for the preparation of an end-aligned fiber sample comprises an array of fiber combs, a first drive unit, a fiber collection device connected to the first drive unit, a suction device, a detection device and a control unit to control each of the foregoing components. The method for preparing an end-aligned fiber sample uses the control unit to operate each of the foregoing components to prepare an end-aligned fiber sample. The apparatus can be combined with testing units for testing the end-aligned fiber samples. One of the testing units can test for short fiber content. The testing for short fiber content also can employ the detection device of the apparatus.